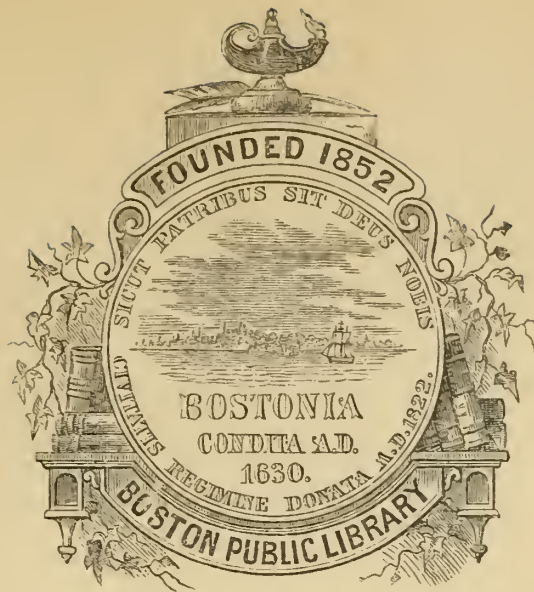


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NATIONAL

BENEVOLENT EMIGRATION FUND.

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

ON

EMIGRATION.

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NATIONAL BENEVOLENT EMIGRATION FUND,

FOR

WIDOWS AND ORPHAN DAUGHTERS

OF

GENTLEMEN, CLERGYMEN, PROFESSIONAL MEN, OFFICERS,
BANKERS AND MERCHANTS.

OFFICES, 42, BASINGHALL STREET.

FOUNDED 1849.

Vice-Presidents.

THE RIGHT REVEREND LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THOMAS FARNCOMB, LORD MAYOR.
HUMPHREY BROWN, Esq., M.P.
JAMES WYLD, Esq., M.P.

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MESSRS. GLYN, HALLIFAX, MILLS & Co.
THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

NATIONAL BENEVOLENT EMIGRATION FUND.

THE want of employment so severely felt by young men, is still more serious in its pressure on the educated members of the other sex, and nothing can be more afflicting than the position of Ladies, deprived of the fostering care of a father or a husband. Thousands are subjected to the most heart-rending suffering and privation on the death of those most dear to them, and they vainly strive for support as Governesses, or otherwise, by the exercise of the accomplishments acquired in happier times, while there is no hope of any effective extension of employment for Ladies in this country.

It is almost vain to seek for employment here, but there is a wide field elsewhere. Our Colonies most urgently require the influence and exertions of Ladies of the educated classes; the tone of Colonial Society is lowered, the prospects of the rising generation are checked from the absence of such influence. Many Ladies would be most happy to avail themselves of the advantages offered by our thriving Colonies, but they are debarred by want of means, and want of Friends, Protectors, and Advisers, to aid them in undertaking voyages to distant and strange lands.

The Colonial Press are urgent in their demands for such a system of Immigration as may preserve the equilibrium of society, and are earnest in their assurances of welcome to Ladies, who may seek to establish themselves. Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, Cape Breton, Newfoundland, the Red River, Vancouver's Island, many of our healthy West Indian Possessions, the Falklands, the Cape of Good Hope, Port Natal, Sydney, Moreton Bay, Portland Bay, Port Phillip, South Australia, King George's Sound, Western Australia, and New Zealand, all present opportunities for establishment.

Many cases will at once present themselves, in which those pining in want here might be advantageously provided for in the Colonies. A Clergyman, or professional man, leaves a widow and two or three daughters with no other endowment than their talents and education, and absolutely destitute of the means of changing their place of

residence. A young lady engaged in tuition finds herself after sickness deprived of employment, and forced to struggle against the competition of an overstocked profession. A family brought up in competency by some sudden stroke of misfortune are deprived of their property, obliged to seek a subsistence; their delicacy would rather find it among strangers than among neighbours. No service could be more gratefully received, and none more usefully applied, than to enable such persons to acquire independence by the temporary advance of the funds requisite for Emigration, and by the fostering care of benevolently disposed advisers.

It is to place the means of Emigration within the reach of the Widows and Orphans of Gentlemen, Clergymen, Professional Men, Officers in the Army and Navy, Bankers, and Merchants that the National Benevolent Emigration Fund is founded. For the lower class of Females, the Government supplies funds for Emigration, but the higher classes are less favoured; and in no way can those favoured by fortune do more good than by subscribing for the benevolent purpose of relieving the less fortunate members of society, who so lately moved in their own circles, and enjoyed the same privileges of wealth.

Candidates must belong to the classes designated, and must present Testimonials from Clergymen personally acquainted with them.

From time to time, as the Funds admit, the Governors and Subscribers will, by vote, elect those Candidates whom they may deem worthy of their support.

The Candidates elected will be furnished with the means of emigrating to such English Colony as they may choose, so that no favouritism may be exercised for any Colony, or for any private or class interests.

The money advanced will not be as a gift, but as a loan, for which Security must be given, and which must be repaid by Yearly Installments. This will be the test of the healthy working of the plan, as the successful Candidates will be able, on obtaining employment, to make good the expenses which they have incurred.

As the money advanced will be returned, the gross Fund available will be increased, the benefits of the Institution be extended to a greater number of deserving Ladies, and the privileges of the Subscribers will become more valuable. If the Yearly Subscriptions should be Two Thousand Pounds, the Fund available at the end of

Five Years will not be Two Thousand Pounds but Ten Thousand Pounds, and at the end of Ten Years Twenty Thousand Pounds.

Subscribers of One Guinea Annually will have Four Votes at each Election, and Four Votes for each additional Guinea.

Subscribers of Five Guineas, in one sum, are Life Governors, with Four Votes at each Election.

Subscribers of Ten Guineas have Ten Votes at each Election.

Subscribers of Twenty Guineas have Twenty-five Votes at each Election.

The Committee have to acknowledge several contributions of Donations and Annual Subscriptions from benevolent individuals and from public bodies, and they earnestly solicit further aid.

. Subscriptions will be thankfully received by the Honorary Secretary, HYDE CLARKE, Esq., 42, Basinghall Street, by the Bankers, and by the Receiver of Subscriptions, Mr. C. B. Buck, 31, Merrow Street, Walworth.

As considerable interest has been shown with regard to the operations of the Society, the institution of which has been followed by the establishment, under the auspices of Mr. Sidney Herbert, of the Needlewomen's Fund, and of other Societies with objects similar to those of the National Benevolent Emigration Fund, the Committee have thought it right to republish in the following pages the correspondence with Her Majesty's Government, which forms part of the last Report on Emigration presented to both Houses of Parliament.

The Committee feel it their duty to record their thanks to the Right Hon. Earl Grey, for the spontaneous interest exhibited by him in the benevolent operations of the Society, and the effective measures taken by him for its favourable reception in the Colonies. The Committee, in conformity with the recommendations of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, consider the co-operation of the local authorities as of the greatest importance, and intend to be guided by the nature of the advice they shall receive. The Committee hope, before the close of the parliamentary session, the despatches of the several Governors of the Australian and New Zealand Colonies will be received. While the Committee invite the cordial support of all benevolent individuals, it is not their intention to push forward the operations of the Society prematurely, having no other object than that of the permanent welfare of the charity.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Extracts from Papers relative to Emigration to the Australian Colonies,
Presented to both Houses of Parliament, Jan. 31, 1850.

No. 2.

*Copy of a Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Sir C. A. FitzRoy.**

“ Downing Street, July 30, 1849.

“ SIR,—I herewith transmit to you the copy of a letter from Mr. Hyde Clarke, accompanied by the Prospectus of a Society for promoting and assisting the Emigration of the Widows and Orphan Daughters of Gentlemen, who may be left in destitute circumstances.

“ I also annex the copy of a report which, by my desire, the Land and Emigration Commissioners have furnished on the subject; and I have to request that, in order to enable me to form a correct judgment concerning the expediency of encouraging the proposed scheme, you will report to me your opinion on the subject, in forming which, you may possibly be aided by the suggestions which you will find in the accompanying report.

“ I have, &c.,

“ SIR C. A. FITZROY,
 &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) GREY.

“ P.S.—Since this Despatch was written, I have received from Mr. Clarke a further letter containing some additional remarks in elucidation of his project. A copy of that letter is now annexed.”

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

“ Basinghall Street, June 23, 1849.

“ SIR,—I beg to lay before you the accompanying Prospectus of a Charitable Fund likely to be of great service to the Colonies. You will see that it is in a preliminary and infant state; and my object in sending it to you is, simply to know whether the Colonial Office entertains any objection to it, and whether, on its establishment, it

* A similar Despatch addressed to the following Governors:—Van Diemen's Land, August 21; South Australia, August 21; New Zealand, August 21.

may hope to be favoured with their kindly consideration and co-operation. Money, of course, they cannot give.

“ It is my intention to ask the influence of the Bishop of Winchester with his brother the Lord Primate, that the patronage of the Ecclesiastical authorities may be given to the Institution; so that young Ladies proceeding to the Colonies may be recommended to be placed under the superintendence of the Colonial Prelates.

“ It is almost presumptuous for me to suggest to you how great is the want of a higher class of female society in the Colonies, and how much the moral tone of society is lowered by this cause alone. The cause of education immediately suffers, from the absence of well-educated and intelligent Ladies. At Port Phillip, just now, as much as £40 a year is paid to young women who are barely able to teach reading and writing.

“ To have had the greater influence with yourself and Earl Grey, I ought, perhaps, to have waited till the Institution is more advanced, or have requested some influential friend to communicate with you; but as the subject is of some interest to the Colonial interests and to merchants here, I am most desirous, at the earliest possible period, to put you in possession of the proposition, and to receive, if possible, some assurance that our endeavours will not be coldly looked upon.

“ I have, &c.,

“ BENJAMIN HAWES, Esq., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

HYDE CLARKE.”

[The Prospectus of the NATIONAL BENEVOLENT EMIGRATION FUND
was sent herewith.]

“ Downing Street, 27th July, 1849.

“ SIR,—I am directed by Earl Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo, enclosing the Prospectus of a Society for promoting and assisting the Emigration of the Widows and Orphan Daughters of Gentlemen, who may be left in destitute circumstances, and I am to acquaint you in reply that, with whatever degree of favor his Lordship may look upon a scheme which promises to benefit so large and deserving a class of persons, he feels that in the absence of the opinion of the local authorities, he is unable to arrive at a clear judgment respecting the support which it may be desirable for Her Majesty’s Government to extend to it.

“ His Lordship will therefore transmit a copy of your letter and its enclosure to the several Governors of the Australian Colonies, with instructions to them to send home a report on the subject, and with this view it would be desirable that you should, if possible, forward to this Department some more (say eight or nine) of the printed Prospectus which accompany your communication.

“ I am SIR,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ HYDE CLARKE, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

B. HAWES.”

Extracts from Papers relative to Emigration to the Australian Colonies,
Presented to both Houses of Parliament, Jan. 31, 1850.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2.

“ Colonial Land and Emigration Office, July 14, 1849.

“ SIR,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, enclosing, for our consideration, a letter addressed to the Colonial Office by Mr. Hyde Clarke, accompanied by the Prospectus of a Society for promoting and assisting the Emigration of the Widows and Orphan Daughters of Gentlemen, who may be left in destitute circumstances.

“ 2. The Prospectus points out the difficulty now experienced by Ladies who may be left in distressed circumstances, in procuring employment in this country as Governesses, and the demand which at the same time exists for the services of persons of this description in the Colonies. To enable them, therefore, to emigrate, it is proposed to raise a Fund by private subscription, out of which advances may be made to such as shall from time to time be elected by the Governors and Subscribers to the Society, such advances to be repaid by the parties who receive them, after their arrival at their destination, by yearly instalments.

“ 3. In obedience to Earl Grey’s directions, we have the honour to report that the object contemplated by the proposed Society is one which, under proper restrictions, appears to us well worthy of encouragement, and likely to benefit both the parties who may be sent out and the Colonies to which they may be sent. We recently had an interview with some Gentlemen connected with the Governesses

Benevolent Institution on a similar scheme, but confined to New South Wales, and we were led to believe that these Gentlemen contemplated communicating further on the subject with the Colonial Office. The great difficulty which we felt in respect to the scheme submitted by those Gentlemen, as well as to the present scheme, is the mode of affording adequate security and protection to the younger females who may be sent out.

“ 4. There is very little doubt that, in the Australian Colonies, the means of affording a home education to the younger, and especially the female, members of a family, are very limited, as also are schools to which parents would be willing to entrust their daughters. In those Colonies, therefore, there would be a great demand for Governesses. Whether a similar demand exists in the British American Colonies we are not prepared to say; but, under any circumstances, it would not, we think, be desirable to encourage any considerable Emigration of this class of persons, until communication has been had with the Colonies, and it has been ascertained what number would be at once engaged in families of respectability.

“ 5. The safest course, as it appears to us, would be to procure the appointment in the Colonies of Committees, of which some of the principal Clergy and the Immigration Agent should be requested to become members, to receive and send home applications from parties anxious to obtain the services of Governesses; that upon these Committees should devolve the responsibility of ascertaining the respectability and good character of the applicant, and of rejecting those who might not be fit persons to be entrusted with the charge of a Governess; and that when sent out the Governess should be consigned, in the first instance, to the care of the Committee. It would, of course, be desirable that the Governesses sent out should generally be not very young, and we have been informed that it is among those of maturer age that there is the greatest desire and necessity for emigrating—the recent progress in education having in a considerable degree extruded them from employment.

“ 6. Thus guarded we can see no objection to the proposed scheme; and we may add, that the futility of all previous arrangements for obtaining the repayment of advances would probably not exist in this instance. The smallness of the number who would be sent out, the superiority of their station and education, and their previous respectability and good character, would, as a general rule, be a security for their faithful performance of any engagements into

which they might enter. We should not, therefore, doubt that this part of the scheme might be carried out, and we should, of course, be prepared to afford the Society, should it go on, any assistance in our power in giving effect to the benevolent objects which they have in view.

" 7. But, under any circumstances, the co-operation of the local authorities is an indispensable preliminary ; and we would therefore submit, that if the scheme should seem likely to be brought to bear, communications on the subject should, in the first instance, be addressed to the Governors of those Colonies to which it is proposed to send this description of Emigrants.

" We have, &c.

" (Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH,
C. ALEXANDER WOOD."

" HERMAN MERIVALE, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 3 in No. 2.

" NATIONAL BENEVOLENT EMIGRATION FUND.

" 42, Basinghall Street, August 10, 1849.

MY LORD,—In conformity with the letter addressed to me on the 27th ultimo, I beg leave to offer a few observations, for the information of your Lordship and of the local authorities.

" It is the desire of the Patrons to send out to the Colonies Ladies, who shall present every guarantee of religious and moral training, and who shall be members of the respectable and educated classes. In many cases a Widow and her Daughters will be sent in one party, and thus the responsibility of the domestic circle and connexion be preserved.

" The Committee expect that some employment will be found by the Candidates as Governesses, Daily Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Companions, and Housekeepers to married Ladies, Matrons of Hospitals, Schools, and Public Institutions. Candidates will be made fully aware the career open to them is one of industry ; and it is to be expected the ordinary household education, in town or country, will fit them to become useful members of society in the Colonies in which they establish themselves.

" The employment which will be obtained will enable them, wholly or in part, to reimburse the expense of their voyage and outfit ; and

it is the intention of the Committee strictly to enforce from the principals or sureties the reimbursement of the advances, for on this depends the amount of good which can be done with the common Fund.

“ It is to be expected that many Ladies will marry in the Colonies, and that thus the sphere of employment will be opened for others.

“ The Committee hope for the co-operation of the Ecclesiastical and other authorities of the Colonies in rendering moral assistance and exercising due supervision for the families sent out; and, as it will be left to the Candidates to determine to what Colony they will proceed, the preference will naturally be given to those which present the most satisfactory assurance of their respectable reception.

“ Thus a stimulus is offered to Colonial exertion; and it is further to be observed, that any Contributions from friends here, from Colonists, or from the Legislatures, may be applied as a Special Fund for sending Candidates to one Colony only, and under such supervision of the Colonial Office as may be desired.

“ It is to be borne in mind that the plan, which in its present shape has received the approval of our leading philanthropists, and will by them be steadily carried out, is restricted to the relief of Widows and Orphan Daughters only, but will, if the operations prove satisfactory to its supporters, be extended to other classes. This makes it the more important the early operations should be properly organized and cordially supported, as otherwise a discouragement will be thrown on such undertakings, and the great results which might otherwise be obtained, will never be realized. It will be apparent that relatively small Contributions from the English public will in a few years, by their aggregation, establish a fund of £20,000 or £50,000, and thus produce a continual and permanent Emigration on a large scale. It is moreover impossible to anticipate the ultimate results which may flow from the successful working of a measure of this kind, and the application of a similar principle to the Land Sales and other Funds, and the extension of Emigration, as an independent and self-supporting measure, may be very greatly influenced. At all events, the endeavour to do good can never be fruitless, and will most surely bring its own reward.

“ I have, &c.

“ (Signed) HYDE CLARKE,

“ THE RIGHT HON. EARL GREY,

Hon. Secretary.”

&c. &c. &c.

“ Downing Street, 4th September, 1849.

“ SIR,— With reference to your letter of the 10th ultimo, enclosing one of the same date, in further explanation of the details of the Prospectus, which you had previously forwarded, of a Society for promoting the Emigration of Widows and Orphan Daughters of Gentlemen, who may be left in destitute circumstances, I am directed by Earl Grey to acquaint you that a copy of that enclosure will be transmitted for the respective reports of the Governors of the Australian Colonies and New Zealand.

“ I am, SIR,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ HYDE CLARKE, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

HERMAN MERIVALE.”

“ New Zealand House, 25th August, 1849.

“ SIR,—Having laid before the Directors of the New Zealand Company your letter of the 20th instant, I am instructed to inform you that they have much pleasure in presenting to the National Benevolent Emigration Fund a donation of Five Guineas, which sum shall accordingly be paid to any one producing your authority to receive it.

“ I have the honor be, SIR,

“ Your most obedient Servant,

“ HYDE CLARKE, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

T. V. HARINGTON.”

“ Australian Agricultural Company,

“ 12, King's Arms Yard, London, 1st Aug. 1849.

“ SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, and in reply I am instructed to inform you that, anxious as the Directors of this Company are for the success of the Society with which you are associated, yet they do not feel themselves justified in making donations from the general funds of the Company in aid of any Institution, however desirable, without the concurrence of their Proprietary.

“ If, however, you will send me a few of your Prospectuses, I shall be happy to forward them to the Company's Manager in the Colony.

“ I am, SIR,

“ Your most obedient Servant,

“ HYDE CLARKE, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

GEO. ENGSTROM, Sec.”

Attention is called to the following, in corroboration of the distinguishing feature of the National Benevolent Emigration Fund—its reproductive character—and of the paragraph of the letter at p. 12. It is an abstract of a letter addressed by Mr. Hyde Clarke to the Right Hon. Earl Grey, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

“ While the importance of encouraging Emigration is allowed on all hands, the means for carrying it out are small, and no adequate measures are taken to economise those means.

1. “ The funds now applicable to Emigration are—

“ The Land Sales Fund, being the portion of the purchase money of land in the Colonies, appropriated, under Mr. Wakefield's plan, for sending out labourers :—

“ Grants from parishes under the Poor Law Act.

“ Contributions from charitable institutions and individuals.

“ The aggregate sum yearly contributed from these sources is now large ; but instead of constituting a capital permanently available for Emigration, it is dissipated in free passages of Emigrants.

“ A labourer is taken from an over-populated parish at home, and from a condition without comfort and without hope, carried at an expense of £15 or £20 to Australia, provided with good employment at high pay, and the means of speedily acquiring a competence, and he does not reimburse, nor is he required to reimburse, a single pound. On the other hand, were the money repaid, it would be the means of taking out in succession many others of our unemployed population.

“ The provisions wisely made by the New Poor Law, for the extension of Emigration, have been neutralized by various causes, and Emigration is too burdensome to be largely carried out by parochial means.

“ The funds of benevolent institutions alleviate the smallest possible amount of distress, and the munificent subscription of £20,000, raised for Mr. Sidney Herbert's Needlewomen's Fund, will be dissipated in one year's operations, without producing any permanent result.

“ Hitherto the machinery for obtaining repayment of cost of passage from free Emigrants has proved ineffective.

“ The restriction of passages under the conditions attached to the Land Sales Fund excludes a great part of the population from benefiting by Emigration. It is to be further observed, the operation of the Land Sales Fund is very partial in obtaining a supply of labour for the Colonies, either for the districts needing the labour, or for those where the land has been bought.

2. “ To provide extended means for Emigration, it is therefore proposed to levy a Poll Tax of £1 yearly per head on each adult, who may, after the passing of the Act, emigrate to the Australian Colonies.

“ The proceeds of the Poll Tax to be devoted, under the management of a district board, towards bringing more Emigrants into the district in which raised.

“ One pound per head is not too high a sum to be paid, and in the opinion of Colonial authorities it could be collected by Overseers, chosen yearly in each district. As all Emigrants, before the passing of the Act, are free from the tax, and have an interest in making every man pay who is liable, there is a good provision for levying the amount.

“ Advances may be made on the credit of the Poll Tax, repayable by yearly instalments of £1 for each Emigrant, and Corporations, Counties, Unions and Parishes, making such advances on the credit of the Poll Tax, would have the privilege of selecting such Emigrants. Under this provision parishes would be repaid the principal of advances for Emigration, and would only have to contribute the yearly interest. The Land Sales Fund in each Colony would likewise be advanced in the same manner, to be repaid by yearly instalments.

3. “ There would be thus four sources of Funds for Emigration constantly accumulating :—

The Poll Tax Fund.

The Land Sales Fund.

Parish Grants.

Charitable Contributions.

“ Had this been set in operation, £150,000 yearly would be now receivable from the 150,000 persons who have emigrated to Australia and New Zealand within the last twenty years, besides £60,000 a year from Emigrants sent out by such Poll Tax, and

£20,000 a year from Emigrants sent out by the Land Sales Fund. At least a quarter of a million would be available every year, whatever the circumstances of the Australian Colonies, and independently of the Land Sales Fund. Thus the fluctuations in the supply of labour would be to a great degree remedied. Neither can it be doubted that the sales of land would now be larger, as the population would be so much larger.

“ Her Majesty’s Government cannot anticipate opposition from the Colonies in passing such measure, as Emigration instead of being checked will be promoted ; and so far from any existing interest being damnified, all existing interests will benefit, as every man will get a better supply of labour, a better market for his land and produce, and a more thickly peopled neighbourhood.

“ At home distress will be relieved by a more liberal Emigration, and by increased employment arising from the extension of our Colonial markets, from those who are now a burthen upon our benevolence, or on the poor rates, becoming producers and customers.”



FEB 27 1930

